

Senate Resolution 808

By: Senator Tarver of the 22nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the mission of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History is to promote
3 the legacy of Ms. Lucy Craft Laney through visual art, local and regional history, and
4 the preservation of her early 20th century home; and

5 WHEREAS, from the era of slavery and America's Civil War through Jim Crow's
6 Reconstruction, World War One and the Great Depression, Lucy Craft Laney built a legacy
7 of visionary leadership through community service and academic work throughout the state
8 of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Lucy Craft Laney was born in Macon, Georgia on April 13, 1854, 11 years
10 before slavery ended, and she was the seventh of ten children born to Reverend and Mrs.
11 David Laney; and

12 WHEREAS, during this period laws prohibited blacks from reading, but with the help of
13 Ms. Campbell, a slave owner's sister, Ms. Craft was able to read by the time she was four
14 years old and could translate Latin fluently by the time she was 12; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1869 at the age of 15, she entered the first class of Atlanta University, and
16 in 1873, she graduated with three other students and went on to start a teaching career that
17 would change the lives of an entire community of people and influence the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, she started the first private boarding school for Black students in Augusta,
19 January 6, 1883; the first black kindergarten in Augusta; the first black nursing school in the
20 city, the Lamar School of Nursing; she was the first to uniform the players on the football
21 team; and she was the football coach; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout her life Ms. Laney was an activist for the causes that affected the
2 community such as the Interracial Commission which was a testament to her inclusive social
3 agenda; the National Association of Colored Women founded in 1896; and the Niagara
4 Movement, begun in 1905 to combat the accommodationist's policies set forth by Booker
5 T. Washington in his controversial Atlanta Compromise; and

6 WHEREAS, she was well regarded throughout the black college and university community
7 and received honorary doctorate degrees from Atlanta and Howard Universities, and she was
8 instrumental in the establishment of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, which was
9 later rebuilt as a high school bearing her name; and

10 WHEREAS, other accolades she received include Gwinnett Street being renamed in her
11 honor; a portrait commissioned and presented to her by Governor Jimmy Carter, which hangs
12 in the state capitol; an eternal flame; and in 1992 being one of the first women inducted into
13 the Georgia Women of Achievement; and

14 WHEREAS, for 60 years she maintained a fierce, compelling vision of the precious worth
15 of each individual and she lived with moral urgency to elicit from each child the personal
16 excellence she believed innate in all people.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
18 recognize and honor the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History and commend her for
19 the contributions she made to her community, this state, and our nation.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
21 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black
22 History.